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Jan. 1963

Recreation Associations Contra Costa Co.

CONTRA COSTA PARK AND
RECREATION COUNCIL
Box # 101
Walnut Creek, California

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Eugene C. Lee
1151 Upper Happy Valley Road
Lafayette, Calif.

N E W S L E T T E R J A N U A R Y , 1 9 6 3

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !

Recreation Contra Costa Co.

What have we accomplished this year? Not as much as we wished but enough to entitle us to be proud of our achievements but aware that there is much more work to be done. We still have our Park Commission and Park Director for our County; park bonds were approved by almost 60% of voting Contra Costans. This vote lacked the necessary 66 2/3% for the measure to pass, but it did show that the majority of Contra Costans want County parks and are willing to pay for them.

Our supervisors are aware of this and have stated that they will consider a pay-as-you-go park program. It is our function to see that a County park program will meet the needs of our growing population.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N

The Park Commission will meet twice this month, January 14 and January 28, at 8 p.m. in the Hall of Records, Martinez. At these meetings the final form of the pay-as-you-go plan will be completed and approved, ready for the Board of Supervisors. They will also expect to have a resolution about the status of Mt. Diablo State Park to present to the State Park Commission on January 18. Your Council is trying to keep Mt. Diablo a State Park rather than a Recreation Area.

P A Y - A S - Y O U - G O

The plan for County parks to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors early in February will be similar to the plans that were shown in the brochure sent out to voters before the Board Election. College Park is not included since it is now under the bull-dozers becoming a new subdivision. However, another similar site has been included.

If the plan is approved by the Supervisors within a ten year period we shall have several water front and inland parks, a total of 3,500 acres, for recreational purposes.

(Please turn the page.)

PAY-AS-YOU-GO Continued

Your Council will want to see this plan adopted and we shall make every effort in that direction. You, too, can help. Talk to your supervisor; appear at the hearing; watch the newspapers; support the Council, your Park Director and your Park Commission.

HUNTING IN MT. DIABLO

Word was received from Edward F. Dolder, Secretary of the State Park Commission, that there will be no hunting in Mt. Diablo State Park even if the park is labeled a Recreation Area. No park in California which was labeled a "State Park" before June 1, 1961 will allow hunting, he stated.

However, it is still undertermined whether Mt. Diablo will be a State Park or a Recreation Area. The State Park Commission will meet January 18 in Sacramento, where its status will be decided. Vice President Edward Kotok and Mrs. Francis Clume of your Council will be at the hearing. We believe, as the Contra Costa"Times" stated in its editorial of December 21, "Leave Mt. Diablo Alone."

State Parks, by law, consist of spacious areas of outstanding scenic or wilderness character. A Recreation Area, however, is developed primarily for outdoor recreation. Preservation of scenic wilderness or natural conditions is then secondary. We want Mt. Diablo's features to remain primarily scenic.

Since a State Park can be changed to a Recreation Area with no publicity from the State Park Commission, possibly the rules governing State Parks could be changed to include hunting also, with no publicity.

FRANKS TRACT

We have been informed that the newest State Park in Contra Costa will be a Recreation Area. We are not opposed to this label for Franks Tract, a land and water site surrounded by Flase River, Piper Slough, Sand Mound Slough and the Old River, where boating, fishing and camping will be the logical features of this San Joaquin River Delta park. It will make an outstanding spot for nautical recreation.

However, we do quarrel with the actions of the State Park Commission in that this State Park was changed to a Recreation Area with no local publicity. It became known only after a letter was written to the State Park Department.

BOATING

Signs restricting the speed of boats are being placed along the banks of the sloughs and rivers of the delta waters. The unrestricted speed of some of the boats has caused many near disasters. Slower boats and fishermen have complained with reason. These signs and their enforcement will make boating in the delta area more enjoyable and safe.

COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

The Board of the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council will meet

Monday, January 21, 8 p.m.

Co-op Meeting Room, Geary Rd. Near Main,
Walnut Creek

Measures to implement the pay-as-you-go park plan will be considered.

YOU ARE WELCOME AT THE MEETING.

EUCALYPTUS GROVE

Negotiations for the area near the San Pablo Dam, for approximately 100 acres, are progressing. Our Park Department hopes to have this area bought and paid for in the near future. Picnic areas and trails can then be developed. Park Director Mattison hopes to open this park by late summer.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR

Early in February the matter of whether Lafayette Reservoir may be used for restriced boating and fishing will be taken up and decided by the State Board of Health. An affirmative answer is expected but no move can be made by E.B.M.U.D. or Contra Costa County until this public body makes its decision.

DUES

With an assesed valuation of one billion dollars, surely Contra Costa can afford parks. Your Council is dedicated to press for them. Your contributi ns help us in this. We thank all of you who have supported us during our ten years of existance. We need your support again this year for our goal is still in the distance. Paper and postage continue to cost money. We need you and we feel you need us to help get parks for Contra Costa.

E. C. Clune, Editor.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Please clip and mail in - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Enclosed is my membership for 1963.

___Individual $1.00 or more ___ Supporting $5.00

___Organization $5.00 ___ Sustaining $10.00

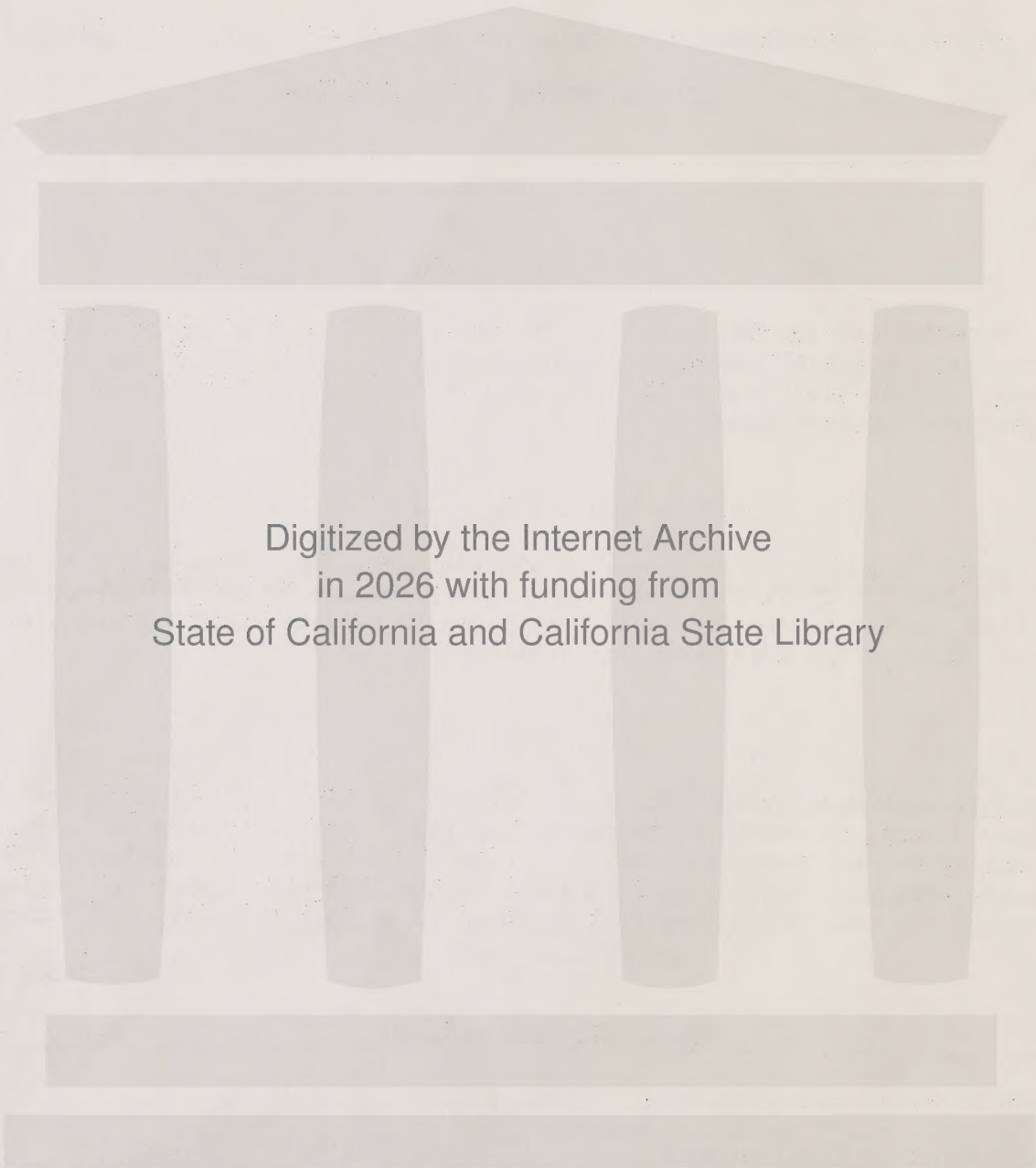
___ Contributing $25.00

All contributions are tax deductible.

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____

Please send to James G. Hupp, Treas., 15 Vallecito Lane, Orinda, Calif.



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R E S O L U T I O N

At the January 28 meeting of the Contra Costa Park Commission Chairman Langlois introduced a resolution that ! "The Park and Recreation Commission recommended to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the Pay-As-You-Go plan. ---This program is designed to provide, over a ten year period, a County park system comparable to that outlined in the 1962 park bond proposal which was endorsed by a substantial majority of the voters.

It is believed that this is a minimum program and that any lesser effort would be inadequate to keep pace with the increasing need of our rapidly growing County."

Commissioner Clark moved that the resolution be endorsed. The motion was seconded. Commissioners Adams, Lane, Clark, Miller, Galli, and Langlois voted "yes". Only Commissioner Pullen was absent..

Thus the Pay-As-You-Go park plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at an early date. Watch the papers for the date and time. It will be an important meeting for the County. A good showing of people anxious for the program to be realized will help with its realization. Do plan to come.

C O U N T Y E X H I B I T - R E C R E A T I O N

The Contra Costa Development Association was assigned the job of handling State and County fair exhibits by the Board of Supervisors. They have selected recreation as this year's theme. They will publicize the recreational attractions, particularly boating, fishing and hunting along Contra Costa's hundreds of miles of inland water ways.

This project is valuable to the County. Advertising the recreational possibilities of Contra Costa will bring more industries, more money to our County. But we must preserve more of our beautiful areas. The Pay-As-You-Go park plan will do this for us.

S T A T E P A R K C O M M I S S I O N M E E T I N G

On January 17 several members of your Council as well as Park Director Mattison attended the Commission's meeting in Sacramento. Fifty-five letters from Contra Costans asking that Mt. Diablo remain a State Park had arrived. No letter appeared asking that it become a Recreation Area. A motion that Mt. Diable remain a State Park was passed. Thank you for your letters. They helped.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

---"Lands, facilities and service currently available are inadequate to meet present recreational needs," said Gov. Brown in his message to the legislature. He proposed that $9,280,000 be spent to help counteract this condition. His budget contains funds for new campsites, small craft harbors, beaches, Joshua tree areas, redwood areas and for increasing facilities at present State parks.

His statement is very true. New York, although a much smaller state than California, has much more land devoted to state parks than California. We need to catch up. Little money has been spent on California's State Parks in the last ten years.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO PARK PLAN

The descriptions and requests for negotiations are taken from the County Park Pay-As-You-Go Plan to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

POINT PINOLE PARK

A 100 acre park acquisition in this area will provide a waterfront park on the most outstanding portion of shoreline in the County. This site might well be lost to other development in the near future if immediate action is not taken. Acquisition is critical.

SAN PABLO PARK

This 1,250 acre site remains as delineated in the County Park Bond Proposal. The County is, at present, negotiating for the acquisition of 100 acres of this property located at the Eucalyptus Grove below the dam. The E.B.M.U.D., owners of the property, have agreed to a study of possible negotiation of this area on a long-term purchase contract. The Oursan Valley, comprising a major portion of the total acreage, is a beautiful area adaptable to many types of development. Acquisition should be considered critical.

BRIONES HILLS PARK

This acquisition remains the same as that proposed in the County Park Bond Program. The addition to this property would enhance the attractiveness and use of this park site.

The owners of the Townsend Ranch (1125 acres) bordering the northern boundary of Briones Park have expressed interest in seeing this ranch retained as an area of scenic beauty for the enjoyment of the public.

REDWOOD CANYON PARK

This 900 acre area remains as proposed in the County Park Bond Program. This property should be acquired to insure that one of the outstanding natural beauty areas of the State of California will be preserved for future generations.

LAFAYETTE RESERVIOR PARK

This property, approximately 900 acres, is owned by E.B.M.U.D. The 135 acres water surface is nestled in an oak studded bowl of outstanding beauty. At the request of Contra Costa County, the Utility District has completed a study of the initial development plan for the recreational use of the reservoir and the surrounding land. Contra Costa should volunteer to accept the financial responsibility and operation of recreational features of this area as a County park facility. 350 acres comprise a sanitary cordon required by State law.

It cannot be sold. The remaining 600 acres could be considered surplus to the utility District needs and cause the County to consider purchase in order to insure its future use. Achievement of access to and early development is highly desirable.

LAS JUNTAS PARK

This 100 acre site would serve the dense population of the central valley of Contra Costa County as a replacement for the College Hills Park proposed in the County Park Bond Program and lost to residential development. This property is west of Pacheco and north of Contra Costa County Country Club. The cities of Pleasant Hill and Martinez have expressed interest in seeing a County park in this area. It is possible that these two cities might cooperate with the County in acquisition, Due to the accelerated development of this area, acquistition is critical.

AIRPORT PARK

This 50 acre development on County owned property would be within the clear zone. This would serve mainly as a roadside park. If the Galindo property, owned by the Contra Costa County Water District, were made available for County Park use; the airport property could then be expanded with the Galindo property forming a more desirable County unit.

GALINDO PARK

This 110 acre site located immediately east of the County airport and Solano Way, could make a partial replacement of the College Hill Park previously mentioned. Negotiations with the water district should attempt to achieve a right of access to and development of the property by the County for park purposes. Concord and the County could work together in this project. The report shows the Galindo property as a possible lease area for five years with purchase being considered in the second five-year program.

CHENERY RESERVOIR

This approximate 250 acre facility is owned by the Contra Costa water District. Negotiations should be initiated by Contra Costa County in an attempt to achieve a program similar to that proposed for Lafayette Reservoir.

MALLARD SLOUGH PARK

This 40 acre holding of the Contra Costa Water District was proposed as a waterfront facility in the Park Bond Program. According to Water District officials, this area must be retained for a primary source of water supply but could have a secondary use as a County Recreation area.

MARSH RANCH PARK

This 7 1/3 acre area, including the Stone House has become County property by bequest from the Cowell Foundation. A study of restoration of the house has been completed. The County should acquire additional land in order to achieve reasonable development of this site. The possible recreational use of the adjacent flood control reservoir enhances the desirability of development in this area.

COAL MINES PARK

Portions of this property were proposed as a park site in the County Park Bond Program. The County at present owns the Somerville - Nortonville Cemetary and additional acquistion should be accomplished in order to further develop historical aspects of these communities. This area offers outstanding opportunities for natural science and geological studies to benefit mainly the school age public of Contra Costa County.

T A S S A J A R A P A R K

An approximate 100 acre acquisition of land in the San Ramon - Danville area is highly desirable. Future population growth in this valley is eminent.

M O R G A N T E R R I T O R Y P A R K

Acquisition of land in this area is shown in the General Park Plan C 1959 for acquisition between 1970 and 1980. It is reasonable to consider acquisition of a portion of this outstanding area before development activities force land costs higher in later years. Development would not be considered essential during this ten-year period.

It should be noted that even though each of the above areas will provide excellent features in a County park system, alternatives to these sites do exist, and will offer opportunities for development and use. It is true that some phases of program facilities will be lost if certain areas are not available for acquisition. Therefore, in order to insure a quality park and recreation system, an immediate accelerated program of finance must be accomplished.

W H Y C A N ' T W E U S E B R I O N E S ?

Questions have been raised about the lack of improvements on park land now County owned. The chief reason is that the acquisition of land as quickly as possible in order to acquire it for the least money is the most important consideration. The Park Department was given only $200,000 to spend this fiscal year. $62,000 was due on Briones. The Eucalyptus Grove (100 acres) is in the process of being bought. Its purchase price plus the cost of a road with an expensive culvert which must be built will be around $110,000. The rest of the money has gone into office help, now two, used to complete the paper work needed for the County Park Bond Proposal and the Pay-as-You-Go proposal.

Also E.B.M.U.D. has not yet completed the reconstruction of Bear Creek Road. The Park Department expects to extend their road to Briones Park from that road. It must wait for the completion of the road which is scheduled for spring 1964 in order not to have exhorbitant road construction expenses.

At Buchanan Field much of the property that will be used for a park is low. The Flood Control District will place their excavations on this land to fill it in. This park awaits the completion of Flood Control projects.

To fully restore the Marsh home an estimate of $96,000 was given in early 1962. The Park Department does not have this money at this time.

Land acquisition is of primary importance in planning a park program. All improvements take money and time. With a planned ten-year program these lands will be developed for us and our descendents, making Contra Costa truly a recreation area.

E. Clune, Editor

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N E W S L E T T E R

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1963

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' DINNER

CONCORD INN 1601 WILLOW PASS ROAD

SPEAKER: NATHANIEL OWINGS

7:00 to 7:30 NO HOST COCKTAILS
7:30 p.m. DINNER $3 50

Reservations: Mrs. Mildred Winslow, 254 4040

NATHANIEL OWINGS, SPEAKER

Nathaniel A. Owings is an internationally renowned architect. We have chosen him because of his demonstrated understanding of the need of man to have natural space along with the necessary physical requirements of his life and occupation. He was responsible for the design of the Zellerbach building in San Francisco and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Mrs. Owings will accompany her husband. She, with her husband, has been a leader in their home county of Monterey in the balancing of growth and development with the natural scene.

RESERVATIONS

Please phone or write Mrs. Mildred Winslow, 31 Charles Hill Road, Orinda, telephone 254 4040, for tickets, just as soon as you can. It is your presence and participation that will make this program effective and of lasting impact on our county.

OUR SUPERVISORS

First: James P. Kenny, County Office Building, 100 37th St., Richmond
Second: Mel F. Nielson, 3343 Golden Gateway, Lafayette
Third: Thomas J. Coll, 2204 Concord, Boulevard, Concord
Fourth: Edmund A. Linscheid, County Office Building, 45 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg
Fifth: Joe S. Silva, 653 Walnut Boulevard, Brentwood

The task of our County Supervisors to create a favorable physical environment for all of us and our progeny to live and work and develop effectively - is a tremendous one. Our council can determine neither the best method of financing public acquisition of land for parks nor the best mode of administration of these lands. These decisions must be made by our supervisors.

SUPERVISORS, continued

We are urban and a fast increasing population sprawl is a large factor in these decisiins. Our Board of Supervisors has recognized the increasing rate of the County's growth. They are attempting to legislate open spaces within limits set by finances and the will of their constituents.

In recognition of advances made by our Board of Supervisors in this area and to spotlight the Pay-As-You-Go Park Plan, I am very pleased to announce the dinner in their honor on May 1.

The program at the dinner will not be speech burdened. Time will be provided following Mr. Owing's address to talk separately with your district's Supervisor.

Hulet Sornbeck

ANSEL ADAMS, PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SIERRA

Those of you who were unable to attend the eighth Biennial Wilderness Conference recently held in San Francisco will see the great wilderness photographs of Ansel Adams shown there at our dinner. The prints are large and well mounted. Ansel Adams is the leading photographer of the Sierra.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO PARK PLAN

On March 26 Gordon Langlois, chairman of the County Park Commission gave an excellent presentation of the Park Plan to the Board of Supervisors. He enphasized the fact that it was a minimum program because the County is far behind similar counties in county owned park lands. Supervisor Thomas F. Coll of the Third District said, "We are speaking about something more than recreation. More than 56% of our people voted for the bonds and it is our responsi bility to provide parks - large parks."

More than 100 people crowded into the Supervisors chambers to support Chairman Langlois. The Park Council, City Councilmen, the County Taxpayers Association, the Central Labor Council, the Horsemen's Association, the Isaac Walton League, the League of Women Voters, and many other organizations and individuals gave reasons for their support of the ten year ten million dollar Park Plan which would mean approximately $800,000 would be spent yearly for ten ye rs for land acquisition and development.

Of the large group present only one voice of dissent was heard. He believes that any County, State, or Federal park plan is communistic in origin.

SIERRA CLUB HIKE

Don't forget the Sierra Club sponsored hikes.

1. Saturday, May 5 , Meet at Mitchell's Canyon picnic area at 9:30 a.m. Stiff 7 mile hike to Mt. Diablo. Bring lunch and water. Leader, Carl Weisner.
2. Sunday, May 19. Meet at south end of Somersville Road, one mile west of Antioch, at 1:30 p.m. Easy walk. Explore sand caves. Bring water. Leader, Hulet Hornbeck.

MT. DIABLO

Plans to acquire Federal lands on the north side of North Peak as an addition to Mt. Diablo State Park have hit a snag in Washington. Although money has been provided by a generous donor, there are differences between the State and the Department of Interior over the use of the lands which probably will be overcome before long. In the meantime, however, the lands will not be lost to the Park as under the law governing the use of these lands, the State has prior claim to them.

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CONTRA COSTA PARK AND RECREATION COUNCIL N E W S L E T T E R , MAY, 1963

SUPERVISORS' DINNER

In Concord Inn's Banquet Room more than 250 guests enjoyed the beautiful flower arrangements of the dinner committee headed by Mrs. Basil Winslow of Orinda. The flowers came from the gardens of Council members from Orinda to Danville. The photographs of Ansel Adams were enjoyed by everyone. The beauty of the setting emphasized the adage that "Man cannot live by bread alone," quoted by the speaker, nationally renowned architect Nathaniel Owings. The dinner honored Contra Costa's supervisors for their interest in County Parks.

Architect Owings believes that beauty pays for itself; that parks keep a community from deteriorating; that buying of space for the public is economically sound and that the Contra Costa Pay-As-You-Go Park Plan is good as far as it goes but that it is too small a plan.

Speaker Owings advised everyone at the dinner to deluge the Supervisors with letters and telegrams urging the acceptance of the Park program in fact and to find a way to supply the needed money.

"How we legislate our lands will determine whether we will become a cruddy backwater of San Francisco or take our place among the greatest counties of the country," said Hulet Hornbeck your Council's president.

DINNER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The unusually beautiful flower arrngements were made by the skillful hands of Ruth Willmarth of Lafayette; Mary Blackman and Gladys West of Concord; Janice Cramer of Alamo; and Pearl Grimes of Walnut Creek, all members of Garden Clubs.

The flowers came from the gardens of Mrs. Charles Keathley and Alfred LeLoy of Lafayette; Nancy Conham, Myrtle Edmunds and Neal Gaubert of Danville; Betti Bodayn of Orinda; J.R. T. Montin of Walnut Creek and Dr. Robert Martin of Concord.

JUN - 3 1963

M T. D I A B L O

Gov. Brown sent a special message to the Legislature asking [illegible] million for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1963 to be spent for land acquisition in the State Park Program. Mt. Diablo is included in the project list for $1.3 million. The Governor wants to enlarge the park by 3700 acres. He wants to ensure the Park's water rights and to make use of long unused State lands plus other properties connecting these lands to the present park. Assemblyman Waldie has declared his support of this acquisition. If successful the park will contain 6600 acres.

PARK NEWS in the LEGISLATURE (continued)

SAN Francisco Bay

(6) A.B. 2632 is sponsored by Nicholas Petrie. It is a bill to place a four year moratorium on any fill in San Francisco Bay in order to use the many and various studies that are now being made.

The Associated Bay Area Governments which include Contra Costa's supervisors and the several City Councils are studying how best to use the waterfront. The Army Engineers are making another study. The Fish and Game people are studying the situation. There are also the Delta Study and the study being made by the Water Pollution Board. An over all study is being made by a University of California instructor that will be ready in one year. The four year moratorium will give these many studies time for completion. Plans for the best use of the bay areas including Carquines Strait and Suisun Bay will then be made.

This bill needs support.

Billboard Control

(7) S.B. 1123 and A.B. 2245 are in line with all modern trends in first class highway development. To support them is to help bring California up to date.

1/ The President of the United States has spoken out clearly on the need for strict billboard control, empasizing the right of the taxpayer to receive full value, in the form of highways protected for pleasant, safe driving.

2/ The incidence of traffic accidents specifically traced to driver inattention has been found to bear direct relationship to the presence or absence of roadside advertising. (MadiganHyland Report, New York State Thruway; copies sent upon request.)

3/ Sixteen states have enacted legislation embodying the strict billboard control of Federal Standards for Interstate Highways.

4/ "America's Prize Highway" has become a coveted title. It will certainly not be bestowed on any California highway where billboards are permitted. The giving of this annual award is indicative of the new and growing emphasis on highway beauty combined with safety.

5/ The First Appellate Court, in upholding the Monterey County zoning ordinace, has acknowledged as "reasonable" the linking of billboard restrictions to tourist attraction and therefore to economic welfare.

6/ Our neighborhood states, Oregon and Washington, have been attracting increased tourist travel. Their state billboard laws, more restrictive than ourown, they regard as conducive to tourism.

7/ The Governor has stated clearly in his inaugaral address and again more recently the immediate and urgent need for a curb on roadsid billboards.

These bills need your support.

LETTER WRITING

The letters written in support of any of the above measures should be short, simple and clear. Our legislators receive many letters so each letter is only a statistic. But many letters make the statistics count. Do write your share of these statistics.

Write to: Assemblyman Jerome Waldie
Assemblyman John Knox
Senator George Miller, Jr.

Address all letters to State Capitol Building, Sacramento, California.

E. Clune, Editor

more about MT. DIABLO

The State owned lands adjoining Mt Diablo State Park are a remnant of the vast empire given to California when it achieved statehood. These lands had to be sold and the money used for school purposes. The State Land Commission has now frozen the status of these Diablo lands so that they cannt be sold but to the Park.

The Legislature is now debating whether all the remaining school lands in the State should be held for recreational use rather than to sell to the first bidder. In this way counties would be given first choice of all the school lands remaining in the State.

Contra Costa is one of the nation's fastest growing counties. Land acquired now and held as parks will enable us to care for future as well as present recreational needs. Your Council has long been working towards the enlargement of Mt. Diablo. We heartily endorse Governor Brown's plan.

This plan needs support.

PARK NEWS in the LEGISLATURE

(1) Senate Bill 153 which was composed by a group of Senators including most of the Committee on Natural Resources, carries out Gov. Brown's suggestion for a $250 million bond issue for parks in 1964. Of the total, half of the money would go for acquisition; $20 million for developments; $7½ million for purchase and development of wild life areas; $7½ million for loans to cities, counties and harbor districts for small craft harbors; $40 million for grant to counties for acquisition and development of lands. Under this last section, Contra Costa would receive about $920,000 in the ten year period covered.

This bill needs support.

Scenic Highways

(2) Senator Farr of Monterey in S.B. 1009, seeks to establish Scenic Highways for California. It would control billboards along these routes; control businesses at intersections, authorize scenic easements for various purposes. The entire Westside Freeway (Woodland to Bakersfield passing from Antioch Bridge to Tracy following the S.P. railroad roughly - to be constructed in 1974) would be part of the system and the only Scenic Route in our County. That part which will skirt Mt. Diablo will indeed be scenic. Perhaps the part from Byron to Tracy may become scenic through landscaping.

This bill needs support.

Roadside Rests

(3) S.B. 173 introduced by Senator Collier would create roadside rests at about half hour driving time intervals. California needs these roadside rests to give people a chance to rest, to view the scenery and to enable them to get off the fast moving freeways if only for a short time.

This bill needs support.

Litter

(4) S. B. 318 introduced by Senator Geddes of Napa would make the car driver liable for any litter thrown from his car by any occupant.

This bill needs support.

Riding and Hiking Trails

(5) A.B. 1877 and S.B. 1004 are identical. They would spur the lagging riding and hiking trail situation which is now a disconnected series of partially usable trails with their feeder trails that would be a boon to all lovers of these outdoor recreations. The bills would: 1/Make the riding and hiking trails a part of the California State Park system;
2/Give the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation the right to condemn lands by right of eminant domain those parcels where land owners refuse to give access to their properties and therefore make it impossible to connect riding and hiking trails.
These measures are supported by Assemblyman Knox and Waldie, our representatives.

These bills need your support.

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CONTRA COSTA PARK AND RECREATION COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 1963

GRAND JURY"S RECOMMENDATION

[illegible]ntra Costa's Grand Jury has conditionally urged that Contra Costa join the East Bay Region-[illegible] Park District. "It is the responsibility of the government (Contra Costa's Board of Sup-[illegible]rvisors) to provide park facilities for the residents of the County," declares Robert Kahn, [illegible]hairman of the Grand Jury's committee on taxes and assessments. "It is essential that (park) development not be permitted to lag because land suitable for park and recreation development will - - - - gradually be converted to other uses."

[illegible]BRPD Director Mattison is to explore the situation and present his findings to the Park Com-[illegible]mission and the Board of Supervisors soon.

[illegible]he Park Council appreciates the fact that the Grand Jury recognizes the importance of acquir[illegible]ng park lands in our County without delay. The C[illegible]uncil also agrees that the annexation to [illegible]BRPD should be explored.

[illegible]owever, the Council is concerned with the immediate future of land acquisition in the inter-[illegible]m. Our Park Commission has requested an 8¢ per $100 assessed valuation for the year 1963-[illegible]. East Bay Municipal Utility District is awaiting positive action by our Board of Super-[illegible]visors. Land holders may not be able to wait for an election. Much more than token funds [illegible]must be used for land acquisition now.

[illegible]t would be unfortunate if the need for developing regional parks be confused with the immed-[illegible]ate need of our County, to carry out the program of the Park Commission.

THE COUNCIL"S RESOLUTION

[illegible]At the June 17 Park Council Board Meeting, EBRPD Director William Penn Mott met with the [illegible]Council, explained his district's workings and answered questions. After discussion the [illegible]following resolution was approved:

Whereas, a suggestion has recently been made that Contra Costa County join the East Bay Regional Park District and

Whereas, this suggestion was made just as the Board of Supervisors is considering the County Park Commission's recommendation of an 8¢ tax rate and an $$835,000 appropriation for the ensuing fiscal year and

Whereas, the EBRPD has itself just been authorized by the State Legislature to increase their tax rate to 10¢ per $100 assessed valuation for the coming five years and

Whereas, every month we wait for acquisition of land for parks will cost the people of this county heavily since land increases in price, and

Whereas no election to annex to EBRPD could take place before November, 1964 beyond this fiscal year,

Therefore, be it resolved that this latest suggestion only makes more urgent the Pay-As-You-Go Plan and that $835,000 appropriation be placed in the current budget as recommended by the County Park Commission.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

EBRPD was authorized by the State Legislature in 1931. When East Bay Municipal Utility District decided that they would sell their surplus land and an eastern syndicate was on the point of buying these lands for residential purposes, a group of Bay citizens decided that they wanted the area for parks. Several organizations, assisted by the National Park Service and the University of California were able to obtain enabling legislation to reserve the area for parks.

At the last minute Contra Costa County pulled out of the negotiations but Emeryville, Berkeley, Oakland and Alameda went forward with the plans. They taxed themselves 5¢ on $100 of assessed valuation to obtain the land.

The District is governed by a five man board selected from five different wards of equal population as decided by the County Clerk. Each person must be elected by his ward.

There is proposed legislation which will affect EBRPD. These measures have been passed by the 1963 Legislature but Gov. Brown has not yet sigend the bills at this writing:

1. raising the five board members to seven,
2. authorizing a District tax up to 10¢ per $100 assessed valuation,
3. other changes concerning fire, bidding, citations for misdemeanors.

The EBRPD leases as well as buys land. It can improve leased land. An example of this is the Sunol Valley Project of 3500 acres of which 2800 are leased from the San Francisco Water Company.

The District can annex land which is not contiguous to existing park lands. However, it plans to connect them by means of hiking and riding trails. The District can condemn lands but not EBMUD lands.

About five years ago the Park Commission of Contra Costa considered the possibility of joining EBRPD. The Commission was informed that Contra Costa would have to contribute a pro rata sum of that money which, through the years, had gone into the District through taxation. This amounted to $5,000,000.

Now, however, EBRPDistrict has a policy decision requiring no contribution of funds as a condition of annexing to the District.

Park Director Mott urged that we do everything possible to persuage the Board of Supervisors to carry out the Pay-As-You-Go Plan for the year 1953-64 because Contra Costa is far behind all other Bay Area counties in park lands.

Contra Costa Times Editorial

In an excellent editorial in the June 19 "Contra Costa Times", it stated among other things - - - "We hope that the study will be quickly completed and a decision made." and "The longer we delay the more costly a program of alnd acquisition will be".

PLEASANT HILL CENTER STRIP

Mayor Leonard Grote of Pleasant Hill is working on a project of beautification of the part of Highway 21 that pases through that city. The intention is to lessen traffic hazards through some form of planting.

Technical advice will be obtained from landscape architects. It is planned to develop the quarter mile between Willow Pass Road and the shopping area first. Later the planting

would be continued to the Monument.

The Mayor would appreciate help from any Council member living in Pleasant Hill. Any effort to improve the appearance of that area would be appreciated. Mayor Grote's telephone number is 602-4512.

JULY 15 MEETING

There will be a July meeting of the C.C. Park and Recreation Council Board due to the importance of the County Budget which will be more or less decided at this time.

Reports will be given from those members who have had last nimute contact with their respective Supervisors.

All Park Council members are invited to attend. It will be held in the upper room of the Co-op Store, at Geary Road and Main Streets in Walnut Creek, Monday, July 15, at 8 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Members of the Board of Supervisors will soon be determining our County's park prgoram for the next fiscal year. An $835,000 budget represents a minimum beginning if we are to hav a park system in our County.

Here are four critical results of delay through failure to budget as recommended.

1. Our County is one more year behind the other Bay Area counties in parks.
2. Open lands available now are being subdivided.
3. The cost of remaining land goes up.
4. We jeopardize our opportunity to acquire East Bay Municipal Utility District land. (How long can they wait?)

LET THE BOARD KNOW NOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE THEY MUST DO NOW. WRITE YOUR SUPERVISOR AND HAVE YOUR SOCIAL, BUSINESS AND RELIGIOUS CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS DO THE SAME. N O W.

First: James P. Kenny, County Office Bldg., Richmond
Second: Mel F. Nielson, 3343 Golden Gateway, Lafayette
Third: Thomas J. Coll, 2204 Concord Blvd, Concord
Fourth: Edmund A Linscheid, County Office Bldg., Pittsurg
Fifth: Joe S. Silva, 653 Walnut Blvd., Brentwood

I would appreciate a copy.

Hulet C. Hornbeck,
16 John Muir Road,
Martinez, California

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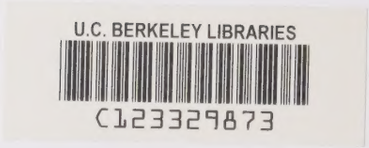

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